

State of Alaska FY2003 Governor's Operating Budget

Department of Fish and Game Performance Measures

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Commissioner: Frank Rue**Tel:** (907) 465-4100 **Fax:** (907) 465-2332 **E-mail:** Frank_Rue@fishgame.state.ak.us**Administrative Services Director: Kevin Brooks****Tel:** (907) 465-5999 **Fax:** (907) 465-6078 **E-mail:** Kevin_Brooks@fishgame.state.ak.us**Governor's Key Department-wide Performance Measures for FY2003****Measure:**

100% of contracted research reports on Stellar Sea Lions are submitted by the end of the federal contract completion date.

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The department is responsible for assessing the factors underlying the decline of the Steller sea lion and developing a science based recovery strategy. Development of a recovery strategy has advanced considerably in the past year in the areas of research and the application of that research. New studies have begun, guided by a team of state and federal scientists. The department has convened a sea lion recovery team that has begun to apply new information to sea lion protection plans. State and federal regulatory boards are using the information to protect sea lions with minimal effect on fisheries. Some information suggests the sea lion population may be stabilizing.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Progress will be evidenced initially by the department's ability to gain new information on the life history, habitat, and nutritional needs of the Steller sea lion. Further evidence of progress will be that this information is used in a federal recovery plan for sea lions that minimally affects those activities, including fishing, that are unrelated to sea lion recovery. Ultimately, success will be measured by the extent population surveys demonstrate sea lion populations have recovered and are no longer listed as endangered.

Background and Strategies:

BACKGROUND: The Western Gulf of Alaska and Bering Sea population of the Steller sea lion is listed as an endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act. By court order, trawl fisheries in the vicinity of sea lion haul outs have been closed.

STRATEGIES: The department has provided information to National Marine Fisheries Service on all state-managed fisheries in the vicinity of sea lion concentrations. The department has applied for federal funds needed to engage in sea lion biological and ecological studies. The department will develop a research program designed to specify sea lion nutritional and habitat needs; the resulting information will be incorporated into the federal sea lion recovery plan.

Measure:

Maintain U.S./Canada trans-boundary salmon stocks at or above the escapement levels recorded in the 1999, 2000, and 2001 seasons.

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The department has responsibility to maintain, enhance and restore Pacific Northwest trans-boundary salmon stocks in accordance with the U.S./Canada Pacific Salmon Treaty. Restoration of these stocks has largely been accomplished. The current overall goal for these stocks is to establish management plans to prevent a recurrence of the previous declines. The department has complied with treaty requirements including necessary research to better enumerate and manage trans-boundary stocks. Management plans are based on establishing an annual abundance-based goal and managing harvests so as not to exceed that goal. These annual goals have been met in recent years.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Progress on meeting treaty requirements will be represented by the development of research and economic development strategies and plans consistent with the goals of the treaty and subsequent funding initiatives.

Background and Strategies:

BACKGROUND: The Pacific Salmon Treaty was successfully renegotiated and amended in 1999. Since then, additional federal treaty implementation funds for scientific research and economic development have become available.

STRATEGIES: The department will focus on developing and implementing a procedure whereby state agency staff and stakeholders will identify salmon research and economic development projects and priorities. These projects will be included in research and economic development plans for the region. Among the new projects will be a Taku River fish stock assessment, region-wide fish habitat gap analysis, and development of an improved chinook abundance model.

Measure:

Percentage of cooperative research plans implemented for the Yukon, Kuskokwim and Norton Sound drainages.

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The department is responsible for developing a program to regulate, manage, research and monitor the chronically depleted chum and chinook salmon stocks of Western Alaska. Success of this program is demonstrated by a substantial increase in research effort directed toward depressed stocks in the AYK region. For the first time, regional groups and the department have established cooperative research plans for these fish stocks and geographic areas. These research plans and their results will be used in part as a basis for all AYK pre-season management plans, as well as regulatory action by the Board of Fisheries in 2003 and 2006.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Progress toward meeting this measure will primarily be represented in the information compiled by the department and the actions of the Board of Fisheries in the course of the board's regulatory cycle.

Background and Strategies:

BACKGROUND: The Board of Fisheries and the department adopted the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy for Alaska in March 2000, as a means to ensure sustainable salmon fishing and fisheries management. Implementation takes place primarily through the Board of Fisheries regulatory process, although the principles and criteria in the policy may apply more broadly to many department functions and initiatives.

STRATEGIES: The department prepares stock status reports on those salmon stocks being considered by the Board of Fisheries at each regular meeting. The department will identify stocks of concern, recommend new or modified management plans, and work with the board to develop action plans and research plans as needed. The department will consider the principles and criteria in the course of identifying research and other goals, apart from the board process.

Measure:

At least two new Invasive Species Action Plans will be developed annually.

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The department is responsible for developing a program to maintain, monitor and protect the health of Alaska's oceans and watersheds and their resources and habitat, for long-term viability and use. For each of the next five fiscal years, the department expects to produce at least two invasive species action plans.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Progress toward meeting the goals of the overall program will initially be represented by the extent to which project deadlines are met for critically important projects. In the coming year the department will focus on two projects: (1) invasive species (with an initial focus on Atlantic Salmon) and (2) identification of important marine fish habitat sites. Near-term goals include development of an Invasive Species Policy for the department, an Aquatic Nuisance Plan, and a Marine Protected Areas strategy. A specific long term goal is the development of 2 new Invasive Species Action Plans per year.

Background and Strategies:

BACKGROUND: The Office of the Governor, working with state resource agencies including ADF&G, developed the Oceans and Watersheds Initiative with the goal of protecting coastal and upland habitats with a focus on fish resources and habitat. The following principles will guide decisions and actions relating to Alaska's oceans and watersheds. A. Fisheries management shall ensure the conservation of fish and wildlife and the protection of important habitat. B. The health of Alaska's waters and marine ecosystems shall be maintained and protected for the benefit and use of all Alaskans. C. The health of Alaska's wild and traditional food sources shall be maintained and protected. D. State agencies shall manage Alaska's oceans and watersheds consistent with ecosystem-based management.

STRATEGIES:

As its part in the governor's Oceans and Watersheds Initiative the department has committed to completing a suite of projects in the areas of monitoring key environmental indicators, water quality, in-stream flow, invasive species, resource inventory, resource protection, data base development, and fisheries research. The time frame for completing these projects extends for the next several years, with emphasis on completing or making significant progress on key projects in the next 12 months.

Commercial Fisheries Budget Request Unit

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Key Performance Measures for FY2003

Measure:

The number of escapement objectives met compared to the total number of objectives set per region.
Sec 69.b.1. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The current status of this measure is reflected in the table below. In 2001, of the 166 streams and rivers actively monitored for escapement by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, 86% were within or above their escapement goal range. Lack of markets helped cause over escapements in many systems.

Region	Number of systems within goal range	Under range	Over range	Unknown	Percent within or above goal range
Southeast	10	2	10		91%
Central	36	3	7		93%
AYK	25	14	2	15	66%
Kodiak	21	4	32		93%
Total	92	23	51	15	86%

Benchmark Comparisons:

This performance measure does not lend itself to comparisons with other agencies or jurisdictions because it measures progress in achieving specific sustainable escapement goals for Alaska's waters.

Background and Strategies:

One measure of the performance of commercial salmon fisheries management is the success in achieving salmon escapement goals. Escapement goals are established by the department on the basis of the best available scientific information consistent with the Salmon Escapement Goal Policy and the Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy regulations. Fisheries are opened and closed by local department area managers by emergency order to ensure adequate escapements are obtained and surplus returns are harvested.

Measure:

The number of allocation objectives met compared to the total number of objectives set per region.
Sec 69.b.2. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The current status of this measure is reflected in the table below. Of the 15 fisheries with a regulatory requirement to actively manage the fishery to achieve allocation goals, in 2001, 60% of these fisheries fell within 10% of their allocative goal.

Region	# of fisheries with a regulatory requirement for active mgmt. to meet allocation goal	#of fisheries +/- 10% of their allocation goal	Percent +/- 10% of their allocative goal
Southeast	5	3	60%
Central	8	4	50%
Kodiak	2	2	100%
Total	15	9	60%

Benchmark Comparisons:

This performance measure does not lend itself to comparisons with other agencies or jurisdictions because it measures progress in meeting regulatory allocations for specific Alaska fisheries or gear groups.

Background and Strategies:

The department opens and closes fisheries to obtain regulatory allocations established by the Alaska Board of Fisheries for some specific fisheries or gear groups. This measure should be refined to identify those fisheries where managers are required to achieve annual allocations versus long term allocation percentages that are reviewed by the Board of Fisheries.

Sport Fisheries Budget Request Unit

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Key Performance Measures for FY2003

Measure:

For river systems that support a sport harvest of 100 or more king salmon, the number and percentage for which an escapement goal is established.

Sec 70.b.1. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The division's target is to establish escapement goals within in the next 5 years for 100 percent of river systems supporting an annual harvest of 100 or more king salmon. The current status of this measure is reflected in the table below. These numbers are derived from data collected in 2000, which is the most current analyzed data available.

Region	# of Streams with a Sport Harvest of at least 100 King Salmon	# of Streams with a Sport Harvest of at least 100 King Salmon, which have an Escapement Goal	Percentage of Streams with Escapement Goals
I (Southeast)	3	2*	67%
II (Southcentral)	45	28	62%
III (Interior)	5	5	100%

*Fish Creek, near Juneau, had a harvest of 442 king salmon in 2000. However, the only king salmon that enter Fish Creek are hatchery fish. Fish Creek does not support natural king salmon production. Therefore, there is no escapement goal.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Alaska's in river escapement goals cannot be compared with escapement goals in others states because every river system has its own unique characteristics and factors that influence overall escapement.

Background and Strategies:

The Division of Sport Fish conducts periodic review of king salmon fisheries that support an average harvest of 100 king salmon. The goal is to collect sufficient information to establish escapement objectives that assure sustained yield in these fisheries.

Measure:

For river systems that support a sport harvest of 100 or more king salmon, the number and percentage for which enumeration occurs annually.

Sec 70.b.2. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The division's target is to annually count escapements for 100 percent of river systems supporting an annual harvest of 100 or more king salmon. The current status of this measure is reflected in the table below. These numbers are derived from data collected in 2000, which is the most current analyzed data available.

Region	# of Streams with a Sport Harvest of at least 100 King Salmon	# of Streams with a Sport Harvest of at least 100 King Salmon, which are Enumerated Annually	Percentage of Streams that are enumerated Annually
I (Southeast)	3	3	100%

II (Southcentral)	45	33	73%
III (Interior)	5	5	100%

Benchmark Comparisons:

Alaska's in river escapement goals cannot be compared with escapement goals in others states because every river system has its own unique characteristics and factors that influence overall escapement.

Background and Strategies:

The Division of Sport fish conducts fishery performance and stock status assessments of fisheries that support an average harvest of 100 or more king salmon. The goal is to enumerate king salmon escapements in streams that support these fisheries.

Measure:

For river systems that support a sport harvest of 100 or more king salmon, the number and percentage of escapement objectives achieved annually.

Sec 70.b.3. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The division's target is to achieve escapement goals within the next 5 years for 75 percent of river systems supporting an annual harvest of 100 or more king salmon. The current status of this measure is reflected in the table below. These numbers are derived from data collected in 2000, which is the most current analyzed data available.

Region	# of Streams with a Sport Harvest of at least 100 King Salmon	# of Streams with a Sport Harvest of at least 100 King Salmon where Escapement Goals were Achieved	Percentage of Streams where Escapement Goals were Achieved
I (Southeast)	3	2*	67%
II (Southcentral)	45	23	51%
III (Interior)	5	0**	0%

*Fish Creek does not support natural king salmon production. Therefore there is no escapement goal. However, king salmon entering Fish Creek are enumerated in order to determine total hatchery production.

** Of the five streams that did not meet the escapement goal, an under escapement occurred on only one stream. King salmon escapement could not be determined on the remaining streams due to poor weather and water conditions.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Alaska's in river escapement goals cannot be compared with escapement goals in others states because every river system has its own unique characteristics and factors that influence overall escapement.

Background and Strategies:

The Division of Sport Fish actively manages king salmon fisheries that support an average harvest of 100 king salmon. This includes proactive management through the Board of Fisheries regulatory process as well as in-season emergency order action. The goal is to annually achieve escapement objectives wherever they are established.

Measure:

The number of fish licenses sold and the total revenue generated.

Sec 70.c.1. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The division's target is to maintain or increase the number of sport fishing licenses sold to residents and nonresidents. Numbers of licenses sold and corresponding revenues generated for 1998 – 2000 are listed below.

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
# of Resident Licenses sold	174,885	173,362	177,366
Resident License Revenue	\$2,431,653	\$2,405,690	\$2,460,336
# of Non- Resident Licenses sold	249,552	264,792	276,754
Non-Resident License Revenue	\$6,566,436	\$6,823,431	\$7,047,002

Benchmark Comparisons:

We have looked at license sales, fees and structures of Washington and California. The license requirements and license fee structures are vastly different from those of Alaska, and therefore do not lend themselves to comparison.

Background and Strategies:

The division tracks the number of license sales each year, and maintains this information in an historical data base in order to spot decreasing license sales trends. We've recently conducted a survey of sport anglers designed to gather demographic and preference data which will assist with identifying who is losing interest in sport fishing and why, and where best to direct our public relations efforts.

Measure:

The percentage of Alaska residents between the ages of 16 and 59 who purchase fishing licenses.
Sec 70.c.2. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The division's target is to maintain or increase the number of sport fishing licenses sold to residents. Alaska residents between the ages of 16 and 60 are required to purchase and have in their possession a sport fishing license if they want to participate in any sport or personal use fishing in the state. According to the 2000 US Census Bureau report there are 400,610 Alaska residents between the ages of 18 and 64 years of age. DF&G license sales records indicate that 177,366 residents purchased sport fishing licenses in 2000. Therefore, **44 percent** of all residents purchased sport fishing licenses in 2000.

Benchmark Comparisons:

We have looked at license sales, fees and structures of Washington and California. The license requirements and license fee structures are vastly different from those of Alaska, and therefore do not lend themselves to comparison.

Background and Strategies:

The division tracks the number of license sales each year, and maintains this information in an historical data base in order to spot decreasing license sales trends. We've recently conducted a survey of sport anglers designed to gather demographic and preference data which will assist with identifying who is losing interest in sport fishing and why, and where best to direct our public relations efforts.

Measure:

Begin construction on a minimum of one new boating access facility or upgrade of an existing facility per year in each of three regions (Southeast, Southcentral, and Interior).

Alaska's Target & Progress:

See Benchmark.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Existing boating access facilities statewide:

- 51 boat launch ramps
- 25 accessible restrooms
- 1,500 parking spaces

- 14 boarding docks
- 25 sewage pump-out and dump stations

Background and Strategies:

Background: The Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act requires that 15% of the federal funds received by the state be used for boating access projects. Since the beginning of the Boating Access Program in 1987, the Division of Sport Fish has built or renovated 51 boat launch ramps at 37 access sites throughout the state. These access sites also provide 25 accessible restrooms, 1500 parking spaces and 14 boarding docks. In addition, 25 sewage pump-out and dump stations have been provided at selected access sites and harbors.

An additional 13 projects, that were funded through FY00, are either under construction or will be started within the next year. Authority to expend CIP funds for four new boating projects is being requested for FY03. There are about 50 projects on the current backlog list waiting for funding. New project requests are received on a regular basis from local communities.

Strategies: The division works with local communities and outdoor sports organizations to solicit ideas for new boating access projects. These new projects are added to lists of potential access projects maintained within each region of the state. These lists are evaluated and prioritized annually. Authority to expend CIP funds for four new boating projects located across the state is being requested in FY03.

Wildlife Conservation Budget Request Unit

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Key Performance Measures for FY2003

Measure:

The number of big game surveys completed for populations identified by the Board of Game as important for providing high levels of human consumptive use.

Sec 71.b.1. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

During FY01, big game surveys were done for 56 populations identified by the Board of Game for intensive management or high levels of human use.

Benchmark Comparisons:

A benchmark for this measure is not applicable. The populations identified by the Board of Game can vary from year to year.

Background and Strategies:

The division collects biological data on a variety of species to ensure continued population viability and harvest levels that are within sustained yield guidelines.

Measure:

The number of hunting and trapping licenses sold and the total revenue generated.

Sec 71.b.2. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The division's target is to maintain or increase the number of hunting and trapping licenses sold to residents and nonresidents. Number of licenses sold and corresponding revenues generated for 1998-2000 are listed below.

	<u>1998</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>2000</u>
Hunting & Trapping			
Number of Resident			
Licenses sold	110,523	110,348	113,290
Resident License			
Revenue	\$1,729,582	\$1,726,954	\$1,740,958
Number of Non-Resident			
Licenses sold	14,614	14,752	15,954
Non-Resident License			
Revenue	\$1,119,627	\$1,134,412	\$1,220,446
Number of Big Game			
Tags sold	23,124	24,779	26,617
Big Game Tag Revenue	\$5,319,312	\$5,579,844	\$5,781,358

Benchmark Comparisons:

A benchmark for this measure is not applicable.

Background and Strategies:

This measure will seek to document trends in license sales.

Measure:

The percentage of Alaska residents between the ages of 16 and 59 who purchase hunting and trapping licenses.

Sec 71.b.3. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

Released December 15th
12/18/2001 4:18

FY2003 Governor
Department of Fish and Game

The division's target is to maintain or increase the number of hunting and trapping licenses sold to residents. According to the 2000 US Census Bureau report there are 400,610 Alaska residents between the ages of 18 and 64 years of age. DF&G license sales records indicate that 113,290 residents purchased hunting and trapping licenses in 2000. Therefore, 28.3% of all residents purchased hunting and trapping licenses in 2000.

Benchmark Comparisons:

A benchmark for this measure is not applicable.

Background and Strategies:

This measure will provide an informational trend for this segment of the Alaska resident population.

Measure:

The number of drawing permits applied for each year and the total number of drawing permits issued.
Sec 71.b.4. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

104,000 drawing and Tier II hunts were applied for and 25,000 drawing and Tier II permits were issued. Over \$500.0 in revenue was generated for the Fish and Game Fund.

Benchmark Comparisons:

A benchmark for this measure is not applicable.

Background and Strategies:

This measure will seek to document trends in drawing permit applications and permits.

Measure:

The total number of visitors visiting the state's wildlife viewing areas at Pack Creek, McNeil River, Potter's Marsh, and Creamer's Field.

Sec 71.b.5. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

Access to Pack Creek and McNeil River is limited. Permits are required before traveling to either sanctuary.

Stan Price (Pack Creek) Bear Sanctuary: 1,400;
McNeil River Falls: 230;

Access to Potter's Marsh and Creamer's Field is unlimited as they are continuously open to the public.

Potter's Marsh: between 30,000 - 40,000;
Creamer's Refuge: 30,000+ visitors used the trail system and several thousand unrecorded visitors viewed waterfowl from the parking lot.

Benchmark Comparisons:

A benchmark for this measure is not applicable.

Background and Strategies:

This measure will seek to document trends in the viewing of wildlife at these four areas.

Administration and Support Budget Request Unit

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Key Performance Measures for FY2003

Measure:

The total number of vendor payments made within 30 days or less compared to the total number of vendor payments.
Sec 72.b.2. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The Department of Fish and Game processed a total of 84,661 invoices for payment during FY01. 80% or 67,333 were processed within 30 days. 20% or 17,328 were processed in 30+ days. Overall, the department's average payment time was 24 days.

Benchmark Comparisons:

AS 37.05.285 requires that payment for purchases of goods or services must be made by the date specified by contract or within 30 days after receipt of a proper billing.

Background and Strategies:

State agencies should make timely payments to outside vendors with whom they do business.

Measure:

The number and percentage of fish and game licenses sold through an automated process.
Sec 72.b.3. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The department sold 11,300 licenses, tags and stamps over the Internet in 2001, generating approximately \$1 million in revenue. This represents 1.4% of the total licenses sold, and 4.2% of the revenue. The Internet "store" generated the highest revenue of any single vendor.

In 2000, the department sold 8,400 pieces of stock over the Internet, generating \$727.1 in revenue.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Because this is a new service offering, there is no benchmark level of sales to compare. The department expects sales to increase, but it is impossible to determine where they will level off.

Sales will be limited as long as we need to put a license in the mail. If there was a "paperless" option in place that enabled an individual to hunt or fish right away, Internet purchases would be much more attractive. A change of this nature would require a statutory revision.

Background and Strategies:

Alaska sells approximately 800,000 licenses, tags and stamps each year, generating revenue to the Fish and Game fund of over \$23 million. There are 1,500 license vendors, but the top 20% account for 80% of all sales. Vendors retain a 5% commission, plus they receive \$1 per item sold as additional compensation. The state pays about \$1.2 million each year in compensation.

The Internet site has been available to the public for two years and has been very well received. It is an enhanced customer service that also saves the state money. Individuals can purchase their license using a credit card, and department staff mail the license the next business day.

Measure:

The number of issues that the Boards of Fisheries and Game must consider out of cycle.
Sec 72.b.4. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

During 2001, the Board of Fisheries accepted two out of seventeen agenda change requests. This compares to four out of seventeen in 2000, nine out of twenty-one in 1999, and fourteen out of thirty-seven in 1998.

During 2001, the Board of Game accepted six agenda change requests. This amount is an increase from the past few board cycles. The increase is due to the board's scheduling of a predator control/wildlife management plan in Unit 19-D. For comparison, the Board of Game accepted one agenda change request in 2000, three in 1999, and four in 1998.

Benchmark Comparisons:

This performance measure does not lend itself to comparisons with other agencies or jurisdictions because it measures progress in staying within the preplanned regulatory cycles specific for Alaska's fisheries and wildlife.

Background and Strategies:

Background: The public, state advisory committees, and the department plan and budget for each board's preplanned regulatory cycle (two years for Board of Game and three years for Board of Fisheries). The public has come to rely upon the consistency of the regulatory review time periods, and the two-year and three-year cycles provide an opportunity to experience a stable regulatory environment. To take up issues out of cycle may cause additional expense for the department and may be an additional burden for the public and state's advisory committee system.

Strategies: The Board of Fisheries recently changed its criteria for accepting agenda change requests in order to reduce the number of "off-cycle" issues it takes up each year. While agenda change requests are important to both boards in order to correct unforeseen effects of a regulation, etc., the department encourages each board to minimize the number of issues taken up out of the normal cycle.

Measure:

The number and percentage of advisory committees from a region that meet in a year that the board cycles through their region.

Sec 72.b.5. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

In 2001, the Board of Fisheries considered fisheries in Bristol Bay, Arctic-Yukon-Kuskokwim, and Alaska Peninsula/Aleutian Islands areas. The Board of Game considered Southeast and Southcentral Region issues. In all, fifty-two out of eighty-one advisory committees were able to hold meetings for these board issues. Because of the issues being considered, the Southeast Region only saw three of twenty-three advisory committees meet, while the Southwest and Interior Regions saw the most activity with eleven of twelve and thirteen of fourteen advisory committees meeting, respectively.

Benchmark Comparisons:

This performance measure does not lend itself to comparison with other agencies or other states, as a state-funded advisory committee system is unique to Alaska.

Background and Strategies:

Background: The state's advisory committee system is designed to provide a local forum for input into the fisheries and wildlife regulatory boards.

Strategies: The department will continue to keep the advisory committees informed of upcoming board meetings and issues and encourage each advisory committee to meet when boards meet in their areas and where budget allows.

BRU/Component: Commissioner's Office

(There is only one component in this BRU. To reduce duplicate information, we did not print a separate BRU section.)

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Key Performance Measures for FY2003

Measure:

The number and percentage of divisions that meet assigned performance measures.
Sec 72.b.1. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

All of the divisions have met assigned performance measures.

Measure:

The average time taken to respond to complaints and questions that have been elevated to the commissioner's office.
Sec 72.b.6. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

During the first quarter of FY2002, the Commissioner's Office responded to 127 pieces of correspondence in an average of six working days.

Benchmark Comparisons:

The Commissioner's Office attempts to respond to all correspondence within two weeks.

Subsistence Budget Request Unit

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Key Performance Measures for FY2003

Measure:

Percentage of Alaska communities in each region for which fisheries harvest data are collected and reported.
Sec 73.b.1. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

- 10% in Southeast
- 5% in Southcentral
- 60% in Southwest
- 95% in Interior
- 95% in Western
- 55% in Northwest
- 25% in Arctic

Benchmark Comparisons:

This performance measure does not lend itself to comparisons with other agencies or jurisdictions because Alaska is the only state with a subsistence priority law.

Background and Strategies:

Subsistence salmon fisheries harvest data are collected annually in certain regions of the state (Western, Interior, Southwest, Northwest) and sporadically in other parts, as funding and project schedules allow. The regions with annual assessment generally are those with the greatest dependence on key species, such as salmon. Harvest information for other regions is collected as multiple purpose projects are activated. The aim is to develop a schedule of regional updates of harvest data, as resources are available. The division maintains a statewide subsistence harvest assessment report that contributes to the statewide harvest report of all uses.

Measure:

Percentage of Alaska communities in each region for which wildlife harvest data are collected and reported.
Sec 73.b.2. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

- 40% in Southeast
- 10% in Southcentral
- 100% in Southwest
- 45% in Interior
- 25% in Western
- 15% in Northwest
- 25% in Arctic

Benchmark Comparisons:

This performance measure does not lend itself to comparisons with other agencies or jurisdictions because Alaska is the only state with a subsistence priority law.

Background and Strategies:

Subsistence wildlife harvest data are collected annually in certain regions of the state (Southwest, Interior, and Arctic) and sporadically in other parts, as funding and project schedules allow. The regions with annual assessment generally are those for which funding is available due to controversial or allocation concerns, such as big game in the Interior. The aim is to develop a schedule of regional updates of harvest data, as resources are available. Harvest information for other regions is collected as multiple purpose projects are activated.

Measure:

Percentage of subsistence proposals at meetings of the Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game for which subsistence data are assessed and recommendations are made.

Sec 73.b.3. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

- 100% in Southeast
- 100% in Southcentral
- 100% in Southwest
- 90% in Interior
- 75% in Western
- 100% in Northwest
- 100% in Arctic

Benchmark Comparisons:

This performance measure does not lend itself to comparisons with other agencies or jurisdictions because Alaska is the only state with a subsistence priority law

Background and Strategies:

Subsistence data from harvest assessment projects are used to analyze impacts of subsistence proposals to the Boards of Fisheries and Game. There are some areas or issues for which the division has not collected data or the data is outdated due to regulatory changes in the intervening years or uses are known to have changed but details are unknown. The division attempts to anticipate information needs of the boards and public through extensive public contacts such as local fish and game advisory committees and local harvest monitors. This information is useful to plan research priorities and schedules to address these issues as each board responds to public proposals. The goal is to have current subsistence information for every proposal that comes before each board.

Measure:

Number of proposed statutory and regulatory changes by federal and other state entities for which subsistence data are assessed and recommendations are made.

Sec 73.b.4. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

- 75 in Southeast
- 25 for Southcentral
- 25 for Southwest
- 30 in Interior
- 7 in Western
- 9 in Northwest
- 5 in Arctic

Benchmark Comparisons:

This performance measure does not lend itself to comparisons with other agencies or jurisdictions because Alaska is the only state with a subsistence priority law.

Background and Strategies:

Subsistence data from harvest assessment projects are used to analyze impacts of subsistence proposals to the Boards of Fisheries and Game and the Federal Subsistence Board. There are some areas or issues for which the division has not collected data or the data is outdated due to regulatory changes in the intervening years or uses are known to have changed but details are unknown. The division attempts to anticipate information needs of the boards and public through extensive public contacts such as local fish and game advisory committees, federal subsistence regional advisory councils, and local harvest monitors. This information is useful to plan research priorities and schedules to address these issues as each board responds to public proposals. The goal is to have current subsistence information for every proposal that comes before each board.

Habitat and Restoration Budget Request Unit

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Key Performance Measures for FY2003

Measure:

95 percent of the Title 16 (anadromous waters) applications are approved or modified to protect, minimize, or mitigate habitat damage within an average of 20 days after receipt.

Sec 74.b.1. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

In FY2001, 1,999 Title 16 applications were received and reviewed within an average of 17 days. 99% were approved as proposed or with project modifications.

Benchmark Comparisons:

This performance measure does not lend itself to comparisons with other states because it measures progress unique to Alaska and Alaska's project review laws.

Background and Strategies:

The division routinely tracks the status of all permit review requests it receives, and prepares an annual report summarizing such statistics as the numbers and types of permits it issues, for what industries, and in which of its three regions (southeast, southcentral/southwestern/western, and interior/arctic). This allows division management to best direct permitting effort to the regions, sub-regions, and industries with the greatest demand for project review and permitting services. To process this number of permits expeditiously, the division requires an adequate number of staff who have a good basic education in fish and wildlife biology, training in specialized areas such as bioremediation and hydrology, and many years of experience in reviewing and monitoring a wide variety of construction activities.

Measure:

80 percent of the land use plans reviewed result in consensus on habitat related issues.

Sec 74.b.2. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The division reviewed multiple actions under ten land use plans in 2001. Over 80% of the departments recommendations to protect fish and wildlife habitat, public hunting and fishing opportunities, and access to public lands and resources were adopted.

Benchmark Comparisons:

This performance measure does not lend itself to comparisons with other states because it measures progress unique to Alaska and Alaska's land use planning laws.

Background and Strategies:

The division initiates plans for legislatively designated State Game Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas, and Sanctuaries and participates in the development of all other land use plans to ensure adequate protection for fish and wildlife, their habitats and public access to public lands and waters. Any subsequent actions under these plans are also reviewed to make certain they meet the stated goals of the plan. Approved plans, resulting from a consensus building public review process, provide guidance on future allowable land uses and compliance with all fish and wildlife habitat requirements. To achieve this objective Habitat and Restoration Division needs to have well trained and experienced staff to respond to land use actions within statutory deadlines.

Measure:

95 percent of the project reviews for industrial development, road construction, and timber harvest are completed within an average of 25 days or less or within the scheduled time frame for complex projects.

Sec 74.b.3. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

In FY 2001, 92% of reviews involving Fish and Game permits were reviewed within the permit deadline. Average time for Fish and Game permits was 17 days. 89% of projects involving other agency permits were reviewed within the permit deadline. Average time for comments on other agency permits was 16 days.

Benchmark Comparisons:

This performance measure does not lend itself to comparisons with other states because it measures progress unique to Alaska and Alaska's project review laws.

Background and Strategies:

The division routinely tracks the status of all permit review requests it receives, and prepares an annual report summarizing such statistics as the numbers and types of permits it issues, for what industries, and in which of its three regions (southeast, southcentral/southwestern/western, and interior/arctic). This allows division management to best direct permitting effort to the regions, sub-regions, and industries with the greatest demand for project review and permitting services.

Measure:

100 percent of the third party contracted restoration projects are completed by the end of the contract period.
Sec 74.b.4. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The division did not meet this measure for FY01. Of 28 approved projects, 21 (75%) were completed by the end of the federal contract completion date.

Benchmark Comparisons:

This performance measure does not lend itself to comparisons with other states because it measures progress unique to Alaska and Alaska's restoration funding sources.

Background and Strategies:

The Kenai River Restoration 50/50 Cost Share Project was initiated in 1995. From 1995 to date, 214 projects were contracted through the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) because the department has no direct granting authority. Eight (8) projects were never initiated due to changes in landowner's health or financial condition, and the contracts were terminated. Of the 206 projects that have active USFWS Cooperative Agreements (1995-8; 1996-32; 1997-53; 1998-29; 1999-34; 2000-22; 2001-28) 198 have been completed. The 8 remaining projects will be completed during the summer 2002. Since 1995, 100 percent of the contracts have been completed prior to reimbursement.

BRU/Component: Commercial Fisheries Entry Commission

(There is only one component in this BRU. To reduce duplicate information, we did not print a separate BRU section.)

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Key Performance Measures for FY2003

Measure:

The commission processes 90 percent of all vessel licenses, permit renewals, and requests for duplicates within three days of receipt of a fully completed application.

Sec 75.b.1. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The commission is on target to achieve this performance measure for FY02.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Alaska's commercial fisheries permitting and licensing programs, requirements, and procedures are significantly different from those of other states and do not lend themselves to meaningful comparison.

Background and Strategies:

The commission seeks to process all license, permit renewal, and duplicate requests as quickly as possible to help applicants avoid lost fishing time. The commission has streamlined procedures and effectively used computer technology to meet this stringent performance standard for processing nearly 40,000 permit and license applications per year by our small staff.

Measure:

The commission processes 90 percent of all emergency transfer requests within four days of receipt of a fully completed application.

Sec 75.b.2. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The commission is on target to achieve this performance measure for FY02.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Alaska's laws and procedures governing emergency permit transfers are unique to Alaska's limited entry program and thus no meaningful comparison with other states can be made regarding transfer processing time.

Background and Strategies:

The commission seeks to process all emergency transfer requests as quickly as possible to help fishermen avoid lost fishing time and maintain income flow to families of permit holders struck with medical or other circumstances temporarily preventing their participation in the fishery. The commission has streamlined procedures and effectively used computer technology to meet this stringent performance standard for processing nearly a thousand emergency permit transfer requests per year with our small staff.

Measure:

The commission processes 90 percent of all permanent transfer requests within five days of receipt of a fully completed application.

Sec 75.b.3. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The commission is on target to achieve this performance measure for FY02.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Alaska's laws and procedures governing permanent permit transfers are unique to Alaska's limited entry program and thus no meaningful comparison with programs in other states can be made regarding transfer processing time.

Background and Strategies:

The commission seeks to process all permanent permit transfer requests as quickly as possible to help applicants avoid lost fishing time. The commission has streamlined procedures and effectively used computer technology to meet this stringent performance standard for processing nearly a thousand permanent permit transfers per year by our small staff.

Measure:

By June 30, 2002, the commission provides fishers with the option to renew licenses online.
Sec 75.b.4. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

Contingent upon feasibility of timely acquiring and installing necessary technology, the commission is on target to achieve this performance measure for FY02.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Online licensing of crewmember and sport fisheries is now available in Alaska and other states. Provisions of Alaska's Limited Entry Act present some additional requirements and challenges for online licensing of Alaska's commercial fisheries, but the commission is committed to providing this service and has a plan in place and actions underway to achieve this performance measure.

Background and Strategies:

Online permit and vessel license renewal will provide the fishing public with more convenient, faster access to CFEC licensing functions and will reduce paper handling by commission staff.

NOTE: Since this measure is to be achieved by the end of FY02, the commission recommends that it be deleted from legislation introduced during the 2002 legislative session setting forth FY03 performance measures.

Measure:

The commission maintains the number of hearing officer and paralegal decisions issued during the year at 70 or more.
Sec 75.b.5. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The commission is on target to achieve this performance measure for FY02.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Alaska's laws and procedures governing adjudication of limited entry permit eligibility claims are unique to Alaska's limited entry program. No meaningful comparison with programs in other jurisdictions can be made regarding the rate at which decisions are issued.

Background and Strategies:

The commission strives to move all appeals of limited entry permit application decisions through the adjudication process as quickly as possible for the benefit of applicants and all other participants in the fishery. The extensive due process afforded all limited entry permit applicants under Alaska's Limited Entry Act can require investment of significant time and effort by the commission. Under state statute, an applicant with an appeal pending at any stage of the adjudication process is eligible for an interim-use permit allowing their continued participation in the fishery until a final decision is rendered in their case. While care to ensure applicants' rights, render the fairest and best possible decisions that will withstand further challenge is paramount, this performance measure maintains pressure on hearing officers and paralegals to produce decisions and keep appeals moving through the process at a good rate.

Measure:

The commission maintains the number of final decisions issued by the commission during the year at 100 or more.
Sec 75.b.6. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The commission is on target to achieve this performance measure for FY02.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Alaska's laws and procedures governing adjudication of limited entry permit eligibility claims are unique to Alaska's limited entry program. No meaningful comparison with programs in other jurisdictions can be made regarding the rate at which decisions are issued.

Background and Strategies:

The commission strives to adjudicate all appeals as quickly as possible for the benefit of applicants and all other participants in the fishery. The extensive due process afforded all limited entry permit applicants under Alaska's Limited Entry Act can require investment of significant time and effort by the commission. The commission works very hard to issue the best possible decisions at the rate established by this performance measure. Extra care is particularly critical at the final commission decision level as the next level of appeal is to the Alaska Superior Court.

Measure:

By the end of the fiscal year, the commission maintains or decreases the net number of cases pending before hearing officers and the commissioners from the number that are pending at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Sec 75.b.7. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The commission is on target to achieve this measure for FY02.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Alaska's laws and procedures governing adjudication of limited entry permit eligibility claims are unique to Alaska's limited entry program. No meaningful comparison with programs in other jurisdictions can be made regarding the rate at which decisions are issued and/or appealed.

Background and Strategies:

The number of new, incoming cases added annually to the workload of paralegals, hearing officers, and commissioners is dependent on a number of factors, including the number, size, and complexity of fisheries newly coming under limitation. During the course of a year, it is important to maintain a rate of case resolution equal to or exceeding the rate at which cases are appealed to the commission, or the result would be a ever-increasing backlog. The commission strives to develop straightforward limitation systems, issue decisions of such quality as to minimize further appeals, and maintain a pace of adjudication of cases that will ensure the maintenance or reduction of the net number of pending cases.

Measure:

The commission maintains at 20 percent or less the number of appeals from final decisions of the commission that are filed with the superior court during the year.

Sec 75.b.8. Ch 90 SLA 2001(HB 250)

Alaska's Target & Progress:

The commission is on target to achieve this performance measure for FY02.

Benchmark Comparisons:

Alaska's laws and procedures governing adjudication and appeals of limited entry permit eligibility claims are unique to Alaska's limited entry program. No meaningful comparison with programs in other jurisdictions can be made regarding the rate at which commission decisions are appealed.

Background and Strategies:

Under the Limited Entry Act, an applicant who disagrees with a final commission decision may appeal the decision to the Alaska Superior Court, and ultimately to the Alaska Supreme Court. Such appeals consume extensive time and resources of both CFEC and the Department of Law. Additionally, rulings against commission actions or decisions in a single case may be applied retroactively by the court and thus reopen large numbers of previously settled cases, potentially causing great harm to an entire fishery. The commission makes every effort to ensure that all due process and legal issues are meticulously addressed in each of its decisions in order to provide the best possible service to the public and to avoid court appeals. The commission has been very successful in these efforts in recent years. In 1982, more than 150 court challenges to CFEC permit application decisions were pending. Today, even with the commission issuing more than 100 final decisions per year, only four court challenges are pending.